

Rural District of Rugby.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1939,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

**Warwickshire Combined Districts.**

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1, MILVERTON HILL,

LEAMINGTON SPA,

December, 1940.

**To the Rugby Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FAIRHOLME, AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1939, very late owing to delayed arrival of the necessary statistics and pressure of other work.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is a short statement of fact with no comment. All the available information is, however, being kept for record and, if required, can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues,

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

## *Rugby Rural District.*

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### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1939				For Birth Rate	15,530
				„ Death „	15,870
	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	226	125	101	Birth Rate 15.1
	Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births				...	29
Deaths	...	184	88	96	Death Rate 11.6
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate				...	0.98
Adjusted Death Rate				...	11.4
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth				From Sepsis	—
				„ other causes	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births				...	39
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				...	—
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	2
„	„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		...	1

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### B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

*Public Health Officers.*—A complete list was given at the front of the Report for 1938. The only alterations are that Mr. Bladon has now obtained his Certificate for Meat, etc., Mr. Allison has entered the Army, and Mr. J. M. Boswell is now the Clerk.

*Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
*Diphtheria	...	9	...	55	64
Enteric Fever...	—		...	2	2
Tuberculosis	...	3	...	27	30
					—
					98

\* These numbers include swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital at Harborough Magna.

### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.—Both the Northern and the Southern schemes were commenced in 1939, but have been carried out under great difficulty owing to War conditions, hence progress has been slow. The Council has given financial assistance to owners who make connections at the appropriate time.

99 samples of well water were examined, 12 of them bacteriologically. 13.4% were safe, 70.1% unsafe, and the rest unsatisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—There has been no apparent progress with respect to the Binley scheme.

2. (i) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—All the premises at Draycote save two, have been supplied with cesspools.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Whenever and wherever possible conversions to the water carriage system are effected. Failing that, conversions to pail closets is requested, and with each conversion galvanised iron dustbins are provided by the owners for household refuse and ashes. During 1939, 26 privy-middens, and 7 pail closets were abolished, and more sanitary conditions provided.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Direct labour has been extended ; there are now two vehicles of the most modern type. 8 more parishes have been added to those set out in the Report for 1938.

(v) CAMPING SITES.—Only one licensed.

### D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes, but with a view to economy it is not being printed.

#### 4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Local Authority have erected 397 houses ; of that number 54 were built under the 1919 Act, 30 under the 1923 Act, 110 under the 1924 Act, and 173 under the 1936 Act. In addition 30 non-subsidy houses have been built.

1. *General Observations (Clearance Areas).*—No Clearance Areas were proceeded with during 1939 ; in the case of 4 Parishes Clearance Areas have been confirmed, but owing to war conditions re-housing is not possible.

*Individual Unfit Houses.*—During 1939, 6 individual unfit houses were represented, and there were 3 demolition orders made ; undertakings were given in the other 3.



*Bye-laws.*—Building and Water Supply Byelaws were made during the year.

*Housing (Rural Workers) Act.*—There was one application (2 houses) for assistance under the above Act during the year.

### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—Inspection has continued, and improvements in buildings and methods have been obtained.

113 Samples of Milk were taken for bacteriological examination, and 14 for chemical analysis.

(b) *Meat Inspection.*—The Sanitary Inspectors maintain close supervision over slaughterhouses, meat shops, and vans.

14 Samples of Milk were taken under the Food and Drugs Acts—all were genuine.

*Bakehouses.*—These were on the whole satisfactory.

## VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1931.*

	Smallpox,	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1932 ...	—	—	28	1	21	—	1
1933 ...	—	37	55	—	27	—	—
1934 ...	—	34	141	—	37	—	—
1935 ...	—	16	71	—	11	—	3
1936 ...	—	27	74	1	29	—	1
1937 ...	—	23	62	—	40	—	8
1938 ...	—	8	27	—	35	—	2
1939 ...	—	14	43	—	23	—	3

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1939.

### *School Closures.*

Stretton-on-Dunsmore. 18th Jan. to 13th Feb. Mumps.

Brockhurst. 23rd Jan. to 6th Feb. Influenza.

Clifton-on-Dunsmore. 6th to 13th Feb. Influenza.

Stretton-on-Dunsmore. 16th May to Whitsun Holidays. Measles.

Stretton-on-Dunsmore. 21st June to 3rd July. Measles.

Clifton-on-Dunsmore. 10th July to Summer Holidays. Chicken-pox.

Dunchurch. 17th to 31st July. Measles.

Bourton-on-Dunsmore. 11th to 18th Sept. Measles.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
AGE—PERIODS			M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	1
5	...	...	...	—	1	...	—	2	...	—	—	...	—	—
15	...	...	...	—	2	...	—	1	...	—	1	...	—	—
25	...	...	...	2	2	...	—	—	...	—	1	...	—	—
35	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	1
45	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	1	1
55	...	...	...	3	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards			...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	1	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	5	5	...	1	3	...	—	3	...	1	3
				—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—

*Treatment.*—12 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, and 9 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this Report has been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.

## RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1939.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	958	17	14	149
Roadside Cafes and Restaurants	51	—	4	8
Dairies and Cowsheds ... ..	728	—	20	511
Bakehouses ... ..	38	—	3	2
Slaughter Houses, Meat Shops & Vans	998	—	12	12
Canal Boats ... ..	38	—	3	3
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	34	—	15	5
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	26	—	5	17
Water-closets ... ..	10	—	5	9
House Drainage ... ..	307	8	23	55
Water Supply ... ..	332	10	1126	162
Pigsties and Stables ... ..	64	—	1	3
Offensive Trades ... ..	13	—	—	—
Smoke Observations ... ..	35	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	38	3	5	16
Verminous Houses ... ..	47	—	—	2
Pails provided ... ..	16	—	11	18
Ashes accommodation ... ..	35	9	28	40
Shops ... ..	23	—	—	—
Interviews and Special Visits ...	758	—	—	—
Visits in connection with Sampling	111	—	—	—
Public Conveniences ... ..	11	—	—	—
Rats and Mice ... ..	105	—	—	2
Visits to Refuse Tips ... ..	54	—	—	—
Complaints ... ..	76	19	40	68
Watercourses ... ..	23	1	1	3
TOTALS ... ..	4929	67	1316	1085

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	57 cwt.s.	No. 104lbs.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ... ..	...	14
Ditto of Food found adulterated ... ..	...	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ... ..	...	97
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	...	80

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected ... ..	...	91
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	91

LESLIE R. NUTTING, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.  
RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1939 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1933	18,330	275	14.2	14	51	188	10.3
1934	18,210	321	17.6	19	59	197	10.8
1935	18,173	272	15.0	15	55	174	9.6
1936	18,200	322	17.7	17	53	203	11.1
1937	18,310	294	16.0	12	41	219	12.0
1938	15,570	282	17.3	24	85	194	12.0
1939	15,870	232	15.1	9	39	184	11.6



TABLE III.—RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.							Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		
Small-pox ... ..									
Plague ... ..									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	14	.....	2	6	3	2	1	.....	14
Erysipelas ... ..	10	.....		2	.....	3	4	1	.....
Scarlet Fever ... ..	43	.....	12	25	3	3	.....	.....	30
Typhus Fever ... ..									
Enteric Fever ... ..									
Pneumonia ... ..	23	1	6	5	2	7	2	.....	6
Malaria ... ..									
Dysentery ... ..									
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	3	.....			3	.....	.....	.....	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis									
Poliomyelitis ... ..	3	.....				3	.....	.....	
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	.....						
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	.....		3	4	.....	3	.....	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	.....	1	3	.....				4
Totals ... ..	111	2	21	44	15	18	10	1	44

TABLE IV.  
RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	88	96
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....		
2 Measles ... ..		
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..		
4 Whooping Cough ... ..		2
5 Diphtheria ... ..		
6 Influenza ... ..	1	2
7 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..		
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..		
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	3
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..		3
11 Syphilis ... ..	1	1
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..		
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	13	9
14 Diabetes ... ..	2	3
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	4	5
16 Heart Disease ... ..	22	28
17 Aneurysm ... ..		
18 Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	8	3
19 Bronchitis ... ..	4	3
20 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	2	4
21 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3	3
22 Peptic Ulcer ... ..		1
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	
24 Appendicitis ... ..		1
25 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..		
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..		
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	1	2
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	3	5
29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..		
30 Other Puerperal Causes ... ..		
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. ... ..	3	
32 Senility ... ..	5	6
33 Suicide ... ..	2	1
34 Other Violence ... ..	7	3
35 Other Defined Diseases ... ..	5	8
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown ... ..		